

progress during the past year. Its currency has stabilized, inflation has decreased, and the economy showed a positive growth rate. Armenia is also working hard to enact the necessary legal and regulatory framework for true reform to take root.

Regrettably, a lasting diplomatic settlement to the Nagorno-Karabagh crisis also remains elusive. I hope that the memory of the Armenian genocide, as well as the continuing of the suffering of the Armenian and Azeri peoples, will spur a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

There are, in fact, some hopeful signs. For the past 2-years, a cease-fire has held in Nagorno-Karabagh. Over the weekend, President Ter Petrosian of Armenia and President Aliyev of Azerbaijan issued a joint communique agreeing that direct dialog between the parties must be intensified to facilitate an end to the conflict.

Armenia is continuing to talk with its neighbors not only about how to resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, but about the importance of economic development of the region. In fact, just this week in Luxembourg, the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia each signed bilateral cooperation agreements with the European Union.

I would note that Armenia is also engaging in a dialog with Turkey about a range of bilateral and regional issues. This is a courageous, and very practical, decision. Both countries acknowledge that it is in their interest to talk, and I believe that we should do what we can to encourage such discussions between Yerevan and Ankara.

Sadly, the legacy of the Armenian genocide has not succeeded in deterring subsequent acts of genocide in other parts of the world nor did it represent an end to the suffering of the Armenian people. However, it is only by continuing to remember and discuss the horrors which befell the Armenian and other peoples that we can hope to achieve a world where genocide is finally relegated to the realm of history books, rather than the newspaper headlines.

I hope my colleagues and leaders throughout the world will join me in commemorating the anniversary today, and thus ensure that the tragedy of the Armenian genocide will not be forgotten.●

#### THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today, April 24, marks the 81st anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate this terrible chapter in our history, to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

Eighty-one years ago today, one of the darkest chapters in human history began. On that day, Ottoman authorities began arresting Armenian political and religious leaders throughout Anatolia. Over the ensuing months and years, some 1.5 million Armenians were

killed at the hands of the Ottoman authorities, and hundreds of thousands more were exiled from their homes.

On this 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, let us renew our commitment never to forget the horror and barbarism of this event. We must remember, we must speak out, and we must teach the next generation about the systematic persecution and murder of millions of Armenians by the Ottoman Government. I know that I am joined by every one of my colleagues, by the Armenian American community, and by people across the United States in commemorating the genocide and paying tribute to the victims of this crime against humanity.

As Americans, we are blessed with freedom and security, but that blessing brings with it an important responsibility. We must never allow oppression and persecution to pass without condemnation. By commemorating the Armenian genocide, we renew our commitment always to fight for human dignity and freedom, and we send out a message that the world can never allow genocide to be perpetrated again.

Even as we remember the tragedy and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Out of the ashes of their history, Armenians all across the world have clung to their identity and have prospered in new communities. My State of California is fortunate to be home to a community of Armenian-Americans a half a million strong. They are a strong and vibrant community whose members participate in every aspect of civic life, and California is the richer for their presence.

The strength and perseverance of the Armenian people is a triumph of the human spirit, which refuses to cede victory to evil. The best retort to the perpetrators of oppression and destruction is rebirth, renewal, and rebuilding. Armenians throughout the world have done just that, and today they do it in their homeland as well. A free and independent Armenia stands today as a living monument to the resilience of a people. I am proud that the United States, through our friendship and assistance, is contributing to the rebuilding and renewal of Armenia.

Let us never forget the victims of the Armenian genocide; let their deaths not be in vain. We must remember their tragedy to ensure that such crimes can never be repeated. And as we remember Armenia's dark past, we can take some consolation in the knowledge that its future is bright with possibility.●

#### GENOCIDE REMEMBERED

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide that took place during the final years of the Ottoman Empire. From 1915 to 1923, some 1,500,000 persons of Armenian ancestry are reported to have died at the hands of their Ottoman rulers, through a deliberate policy of deportation,

confiscation of property, slave labor, and murder.

Although we now recognize this policy as genocide, no such word existed at the time of its commission. The American Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, New Yorker Henry Morgenthau, described the Ottoman atrocities as a "campaign of race extermination." A chilling prologue, if you will, to the twentieth century.

The word "genocide" comes from the Greek *genos* (clan or breed) and the Latin *caedere* (to kill). It was coined in 1944 by Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who emigrated to the United States in 1941.

In the early 1930's, after studying the slaughter of the Armenians, Lemkin began a campaign to outlaw the crime now known as genocide. He took his case before the Legal Council of the League of Nations in 1933 but the learned jurists would not heed him. Finally—after the Nazi Holocaust shook the conscience of the world—the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on December 9, 1948. The first human rights treaty of the new world body was finally ratified by the United States in 1988. Raphael Lemkin's legacy.

During the Days of Remembrance Commemoration in 1981, Elie Wiesel stated:

Before the planning of the Final Solution, Hitler asked, "Who remembers the Armenians?" He was right. No one remembered them, as no one remembered the Jews. Rejected by everyone, they felt expelled from history.

Mr. President, today the United States Senate pauses to remember the Armenian victims of genocide. But remembrance alone is not enough. Remembrance must be the first step toward justice and, ultimately, toward prevention of future atrocities.

On December 13, 1995, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 44, concerning the deployment of United States Armed Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The resolution affirmed that the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina had "suffered egregious violations of the international law of war including \* \* \* the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide." To redress and punish these crimes, the United Nations established the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The United States must continue to support the work of the Tribunal and insist on cooperation with the Tribunal as mandated by the Dayton Accords.

The horrors of this century—beginning with the Armenian genocide—gave birth to a new vocabulary of inhumanity. As this genocidal century draws to a close, let us remember these events, mourn the victims, and strengthen our resolve that such outrages never again be perpetrated against the human race.

I thank the Chair and I ask that the text of Ambassador Henry